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Copy 7 of 7

23 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division *Sw/S.*

SUBJECT : Further Discussions with C/FI/SIG Regarding Disarmament Verification

REFERENCE : Memo for DD/P from ASST CH/DPD, Dated 22 January 1962;  
Subject: "Conversation with [redacted]  
C/FI/SIG, Regarding So-Called Foster Panel" (DPD 0487-62)

1. In connection with my conversation on the telephone of 18 January recorded in the reference, [redacted] visited me 22 January in company with [redacted] to discuss the ramifications of the question now before the house in CIA with regard to disarmament verification. He showed me a draft of a letter from [redacted] former Nuclear Division/OSI representative now detailed to the Foster Panel, wherein [redacted] discusses DD/P participation in Phase III of the Inspection Study Group's activities.

2. In the words of [redacted] paper, Phase III "will undertake to describe as a first approximation, a potential inspection system, the cost of its installation, operation, and so forth. Also Phase III calls for the formulation of required research and development programs which should be gotten underway if an inspection system (unilateral) of the sort described is to be effectively implemented within the near future." Phase III in effect is an examination of the broad spectrum of potential future collection systems, both ground and air based, during the period 1962 through 1965. In order to enable the Panel to draw conclusions as to U. S. capabilities for unilateral inspection, it is being proposed that we in effect describe what we are working on that might be brought to bear on this problem. [redacted] systems. I submit that we cannot do this without a policy decision from you, which would permit us to reveal the capabilities of OXCART and/or CORONA/MURAL.

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3. [ ] also showed me a lengthy paper submitted by [ ] Assistant Director (Special Projects), DOD/R&E, dated 18 January 1962, entitled "Future Capabilities for Disarmament Verification". This bears a Secret classification only and has two chapters of concern to us, one of which is entitled "Aerial Surveillance" and one reading "Major New Programs for Surveillance and Intelligence Collection". It also contains an inventory of existing programs within the Government in all fields of surveillance. The report I refer to was addressed to the Foster Panel and incidentally was made up in at least twenty-one copies of record.

4. In my reference I made mention of a few of the members of the Foster Panel and can give you additional, with more or less complete itemization:

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[ ] ORR  
[ ] OSI  
Capt. Frederick Welden, Navy  
Dr. Stanley N. VanVoorhis, WSEG

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5. A meeting is planned on 26 January with [ ] to discuss further progress made in surfacing various Agency projected capabilities, and [ ] is understandably interested in reaching a position with us before that time. I repeated again to him my feeling set forth in the reference that because of the nature of the matters we would have to discuss and because of the potentially wide distribution any report of this sort would receive, our cooperation would require a basic policy decision by you and/or the Director. I am advised that late last fall General Cabell as Acting Director blessed Agency participation in this Foster Panel study.

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6. SUMMARY: While I would be the last one to say that we should not cooperate in such a study, I believe there are real risks involved in admitting to such a large group that an OXCART or CORONA/MURAL capability exists or will be operational during the time under study. The lack of sufficient classification and document control on the items I have seen, shown to me by [ ] leads me to believe that this would be more of an advertising endeavor than anything else. Unless you feel committed to have us comply with the specific letter of [ ] oral request, I would move that we side-step these questions, or at the very minimum give the need for this kind of information searching consideration. I have few allusions about the capability of an ad hoc committee in the Department of State when it comes to safeguarding vital information of this sort. You might wish, as an alternate to direct response, to give the information to Mr. U. Alexis Johnson, or at

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least to relate our capabilities to the other materials which are now or will soon be in the hands of the Foster Panel. [ ] has indicated that he will not seek an appointment with you on this matter until he has had from DPD a reflection of your desires in this instance.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Assistant Chief  
DPD-DD/P

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